

EDITED BY
WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,
AND BEVERLEY TUCKER.

JANUARY 28, 1855.

All letters on business should be addressed to "The Sentinel Office," Washington.

FRENCH SPOILATION BILL.

The House, yesterday, passed this bill by a vote of—yeas 110, nays 76. It differs somewhat from that heretofore passed by the Senate.

THE OHIO PLATFORM.

We have always expressed a willingness to open our columns to the explanations of those whom we have thought proper to oppose, and it is, therefore, with pleasure that we publish the reply of "An Ohio Democrat" to an editorial article which appeared on the 19th instant. This we do, not only in justice to the author of the reply, and in justice to his cause, but also from the deep interest which we feel in preserving in its integrity the Democratic organization at the North, as well as at the South. It was this last feeling that prompted the article to which allusion is made, and in that article we attempted in the mildest manner to point out some of the objections which we entertained to the Ohio Democratic Platform. We are glad to admit the disclaimer of our correspondent on behalf of the Democracy of Ohio, and we would be happy to acknowledge that we had fallen into an error in regard to our construction of the resolution to which we referred. It is, therefore, in no spirit of an advocate, and in no desire for mere triumph in a controversy that we feel it our duty to say that we see nothing in the explanation to change our opinion of the original resolution.

We object to that resolution for two reasons. In the first place, if, according to the views of our correspondent, nothing more was intended than to express disapprobation of an existing institution of other States—if, as is expressed by the terms of the subsequent resolution, this is a subject with which the State of Ohio has nothing to do, and is not a fit question for discussion by the Democracy in or out of Congress, where, we would ask, is the practical benefit of incorporating such an expression of opinion in a Democratic platform? We readily admit, in answer to the question of our correspondent, that we do not expect Northern men, however sound their Constitutional principles, to cherish this institution as we do. Fully satisfied of the political and social advantages of slaves ourselves, while, of course, we would prefer a coincidence of sentiment from others, we do not contend, nor have we ever contended, that approbation of slavery is a test of Democratic orthodoxy. But, while this is the case, we do not see the necessity, when the question is at rest, of again fanning into a flame the smouldering ashes of a fire which has recently burnt with such fury—of again bringing upon the topic, for discussion, a question which has happily been set at rest, and with which, according to the very declaration of this convention, they have nothing to do.

But we object to this resolution again, because, as it stands upon the platform of the convention, it is unsound in doctrine. It is unsound because it contemplates the possibility of a future right to interfere; because it implies that there are cases in which an interference with the question is justified by the Constitution. And this view of the subject is not merely an abstract criticism upon language. It has a practical bearing upon the subject in hand. How else is it that in the whole series of resolutions, endorsing as they do every other principle of foreign and domestic policy, there is not a word said, not a direct pledge given in relation to the interference of Congress with slavery in the Territories, or in the District of Columbia. This can scarcely have been an oversight, because the regulation of slavery in the States is fully, and we are happy to add, very soundly considered. If the attention of the convention was called to this subject, which has never, even by the abolitionists in Congress, been called in question, how is it that the more practical and therefore important question of slavery in the Territories escaped their notice?

Let us see the practical bearing of this subject upon the action of Democratic members of Congress. Is there a word or an expression in that platform, from the preamble to the last resolution, which has the slightest reference to slavery in the Territories? A man may well stand upon this platform, and follow its declarations as the guide of his action, and yet vote for the repeal of the Nebraska-Kansas bill. He may well, in accordance with the principles therein set forth, refuse to the Territory of Kansas, already peopled with slaveholders, and being developed by slave labor, admittance into the Union. Nay more, he may emancipate the slaves in that Territory and throw open the gates to exclusive Northern emigration, for ought that is forbidden in the platform of the Ohio Democracy. But it may be said, and it has been urged, that the Baltimore platform of 1852, which was endorsed by the convention, is a sufficient safeguard against this danger. Has it been heretofore? How many members of the Democratic party, who stood upon that platform, and who supported the nominations of the Baltimore convention, have placed a different construction upon its provisions? How many have voted against the Nebraska bill in spite of their faith in the principles of that platform? If such has been the result in the past, let experience declare what guaranty we have in the future, that others standing upon the same platform may not misconstrue its provisions.

These, then, are our objections to the resolutions of the Ohio Democracy. We do not think they have been met by our correspondent. We object to them alike for what is there and for what is not there. We object not only to the elements of the structure, but to the fact that an unfortunate omission has been made—a fissure in the wall—which is dangerous to the safety of the whole building.

The New Steam Frigates.—The six steam frigates ordered last year by Congress to be added to our naval force bear the names of six of our largest rivers, and are all in process of construction at the several navy yards, as follows: At Norfolk, the Roanoke and Colorado; at Washington, the Minnesota; at Philadelphia, the Delaware; at New York, the Niagara; and at Boston, the Merrimack.

INCREASE OF THE COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The New Orleans Bulletin, of January 15th, has a very sensible and well-considered article on the bill introduced by Senator Badger, of North Carolina, for the increase of the compensation of Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States and of the members of Congress. After complimenting Senator Badger on the ability of his speech, the Bulletin proceeds to say: "As Senator Badger is about retiring from public life, this move to benefit those who will succeed him, as well as his brother members, is as graceful as it is well timed. We fully agree with the distinguished Senator, that the salaries of judges, as well as the per diem of Congressmen, should be increased. Indeed, we regret he did not make his bill more comprehensive, and include in it most of the officers of the government, from President down. The salary of the President should be at least doubled. The members of the cabinet should be paid twice as much as they now receive; and sixteen dollars a day is not too much for Representatives and Senators."

"We are as strongly in favor of economy as any of our contemporaries, but we are wholly opposed to starvation salaries, on grounds both of principle and expediency. This country is amply able to pay its employees sufficient salaries, not only to support them, but to enable them to lay up something for a rainy day, and to provide for the exigencies and infirmities of age. We would not wish that they should make fortunes out of the public treasury, but they should be paid such liberal sums as would suffice to prevent the necessity of drawing upon their private resources. Eight dollars a day will not pay the expenses of a member of Congress and his family. Washington is a dear place to live in."

The Bulletin continues: "Then, again, we maintain that low salaries are anti-republican; that they are calculated to build up the patristic and meanest order of aristocracy that exists in any enlightened nation upon earth—an aristocracy of dollars and dimes exclusively. No strictly scrupulous poor man can support himself and family in Washington on eight dollars a day."

POLYGAMY IN UTAH.

A republic is remarkable above all other governments for one evil as it is for many blessings. There is scarcely a new question which arises that does not become the theme of loud denunciation, the object of praise on the one hand and abuse on the other—the battlefield on which are arrayed the formidable hosts of hostile parties. Scarcely has the war of slavery died away, before that of foreign influence has commenced. Man's rights are vehemently maintained in the assemblies of pestilential agrarians; and woman's rights as vehemently in the conventions assembled under the influence of Lucy Stone and Antoinette Brown—if not more silently, but as decidedly asserted in the private domain of a Caudle bed-chamber. Temperance Associations have thundered their denunciations against private indulgences, and moral Mutual Assurance Societies have controlled individual enterprise in the distribution of charities. Compulsory free school education has usurped the place of private parental instruction, and joint stock philanthropy suggesting "flannel waistcoats and moral pocket handkerchiefs" for the sable heathen of Africa, is substituted in the stead of individual benevolence for the "Greeks at our doors." This curious state of things springs from excessive republicanism—as the flowers brightest in their hues but most poisonous in their qualities abound where the sun is the most glaring and the soil the most fertile.

It is not surprising that in the long list of these extravagant vagaries, the system of polygamy among our modern Mormon citizens should have excited the warm displeasure of these universal reformers. We find it made a serious ground of objection to the admission of Utah as a State, that her citizens in their admiration for women should have desired and obtained a superabundant quantity of that blessing. Grave editors have condescended to object to an alliance with a State which acknowledges in her law the right, and enjoins in her religion the duty of a plurality of wives. We believe, indeed, that it has been actually contended that it is in direct antagonism to the Constitution—not of man, but of the United States. What is the ground of such an assertion we are at a loss to discover, unless indeed it is in contravention of the preamble of that instrument, which recites as one of the chief objects of its formation the necessity of a more perfect union. But even this would be an insufficient argument with Young America who contends that the larger the number of members of a confederation the more perfect and conservative is the union. The opposition must be therefore based upon the admitted principle of our Government, that man is capable of self-government, a boon which he could scarcely possess if beset with the cares, tormented with the advice, or trammeled by the control of a dozen wives.

Be this as it may, it is certain that such violent opposition does exist; and we apprehend as great an ebullition of sympathy for the Mormon husband, when Utah applies for admission as a State, as for the unfortunate slave, whose condition has been the cause of so many cro-

codile tears, whenever application has been made for the admission of other Territories into the Union. Now, for our own part, we have but few principles to guide us, but they are of general application. We think that, in the government of human affairs, the fewer the great controlling principles which enter into that government the better. We are in politics what many scientific men are in chemistry. We believe that almost every ramification and variety of effect may be resolved into a few cardinal and elementary principles. At the risk, then, of creating a smile at our expense from some of the violent opposers of our doctrines, we express our belief that States-rights should control in this as in other domestic institutions. God forbid that we should compare the marital allegiance of an obedient spouse to the institution of slavery; for much as we admire the latter institution in its political and social bearings, we have been taught to consider the servitude of a married man as much more delightful, though equally binding. But we do, in all seriousness, mean to contend that the institution of marriage is pre-eminently an object of State government; and, while we would lament the error into which our Mormon friends have fallen, and weep, with true cosmopolitan sympathy over its resulting misfortunes, we would never make such an institution a serious ground of objection to the Union of the fair young Utah of the western wilds with that insatiable old polygamist Uncle Sam.

THE PEACE PROPOSALS.

We make the following extracts from the Paris Correspondent of the London Times, under date of January 11th:

"The number of those who do not believe in the sincerity of the Emperor Nicholas, nor in the probability of a speedy peace, has not diminished. There are few who do not desire peace, but there are many who think, perhaps erroneously, that it is still far from us. The treaty of alliance between France and England disavows all idea of any personal advantage or territorial aggrandisement, and proclaims their sole desire to be to secure the peace of the world for the future. If peace be possible on conditions that can be accepted frankly and loyally, we may be certain that the allies will not proceed from the West, nor from the powers who now defend the interests of Europe. But the question is, whether those conditions now exist."

Is it probable or possible that the Czar, so intractable and so haughty only a few days ago, is now prepared to accept without reserve the conditions demanded of him by the allies? All the dispatches that have reached us for some days past, and which there is no reason to regard as untrue, answer in the affirmative. Prince Gortschakoff, even before the expiration of the truce that had been accorded to him by the allied powers, has intimated to the representatives of France and England that his master adhered in principle to the four guarantees, and to the interpretation which they had received in the conference of the 28th of December, with the exception of some slight modifications; and he at once demanded the opening of negotiations to treat and settle all the points in dispute.

"Thus, then, Russia most suddenly and most unexpectedly accepts, at least in appearance, all the conditions which were demanded of her only a few days previous. The guarantees to which no objection is now made were declared in the very last circular of Count Neeseldorpe to be utterly incompatible with the dignity of the Czar, and opposed to the interest and views of his Government. This is passing strange; and it is this very strangeness that attracts every eye. With all the advantages which Russia has, why not cite all the conduct of our enemies? Why not say, for instance, that during the battle of the twenty-fourth (Nov. 5) the Anglo-French sharpshooters, unable to resist the collision of our bayonets, threw themselves on the ground under the pretence of being wounded, but as they were gallant had had passed, stood up again for the purpose of firing bullets at the legs. Acts of this sort, such as we have just instanced, would amply explain the exasperation of the Russian soldier."

"For the rest, let us, in finishing, remind our readers that, if our adversaries are pleased to accuse us of cruelty, their own prisoners do us no justice. The chiefs of the allied armies have received irrefragable proofs of this truth."

LORD RAGLAN IN THE FRENCH CAMP.

The *Moniteur de l'Armée* publishes the following extract of a letter, dated before Sebastopol, 19th ultimo:

"Lord Raglan came this morning to our headquarters. He is a good rider, and does not appear to feel the want of the arm which he left at Waterloo. He looks well, has a good color, with the beard a little gray. He came yesterday, under the escort of a French officer, with a small retinue, and was met by the English and French staffs. The English are the most free and easy people we know. The following, which occurred under our eyes, will appear perhaps scarcely credible. In the trenches they light a fire, make their tea, and then, sitting down on the back of the trench, quietly smoke. The sentinel now and then goes and looks over the parapet, and if he sees nothing, he comes back amongst his comrades. A shell falls, but no one takes any notice of it. If one of the party should be hit, two of his comrades rise up and carry him away with the greatest coolness; the others do not stir. With us we are careful not to make any fire. We suffer more in the trenches from this circumstance, but we have less casualties, as the smoke of a good mark for the enemy's batteries. The engineers continue to surround Sebastopol with their trenches, which are now at twenty metres from the place. It is at this distance that the third parallel is placed. We are prepared to establish ourselves by main force in Flagstaff bastion as soon as the English artillery shall be ready to support ours in silencing the cross fire of the enemy."

COMPLAINTS AGAINST LORD RAGLAN.

Everywhere you go the officers complain of Lord Raglan that he is never seen amongst them and knows nothing of their wants and sufferings. They also say very plainly that he is no general; that all our victories have been gained by the pluck of the men, but that he serves no credit except for personal bravery; whenever there is a fight he exposes himself rather too much, &c. As a rule, the officers complain far more than the men, but we are anxious to be home again. A lieutenant-colonel of an infantry regiment told me that he would be better off sweeping a crossing in London than in command of a regiment here. On Sunday morning of the 17th, I saw a Lancashire down to our ship with another officer, and I saw them trudging home through the mud to the camp, carrying a ham on their shoulders, and a tin of soup and bottled under each arm. I have been just talking to an officer who has been at the Alma and all the other fights, and he said it was just the brute force and pluck of the men that won all the battles. Many of the regiments, his amongst the number (the 7th), charged at the Alma without any orders. Brigadier-General Penefather is here in the town, just recovering from an attack of cholera. He is much liked; so is Sir Colin Campbell and General Sir De Lacy Evans. But the last has gone home.

The Hon. Edward Bates, of Missouri, has been named a candidate for the United States Senate from Missouri, but he has recently requested to allow the use of his name by a number of Whigs.

soldier or officer wanted to leave the spot. They sat and crouched as best they might in the bleak January air, their hands shivering and mutilated relics of the strong and brave, and pondered, doubtless, with thoughts too bitter for words, on the welcome which the country for which they had given all abundance to them in return. There were no extensions, no stretches; there was no one to care for them, or to conduct them to their allotted home, until, at last, after the matter seemed almost desperate, help came in the shape of omnibuses for those who could sit, and stretchers for those who could not; and the miserable scene was thus brought to a tardy end. With such a specimen of Portsmouth, it were vain indeed to waste criticism or indignation on the miseries of Balaklava or Scutari. How was war already hardened our hearts and deadened our sympathies! Six months ago we were met with the most violent disclaimers when our correspondent asserted that our troops were ill-fed and ill-cared for on their arrival at the wild and remote shore of Gallipoli, and now, such a scene as we have described can pass at our principal seaport and arsenal without comment, and almost without notice.

Singularly enough, on the very day on which this account appeared, a contemporary published a letter from the Queen to Mrs. Herbert most honorable to the feelings of her majesty, and calculated to soothe miseries and alleviate the sufferings of her wounded soldiers and sailors. The Queen requests to be furnished with details of the wounded—more interesting than any one. Her majesty begs that those who should be given the opportunity of interest and feeling for their sufferings, and her admiration of their courage and heroism. She knows the value of her sympathy, and she is anxious it may not be withheld.

Yesterday her majesty passed through Portsmouth on her way to Osborne, and those who could find no time to welcome her wounded soldiers home, should at least have welcomed her usual punctuality. Had she asked the gentlemen who surrounded her on the station with the keys of the fortress where they were when her poor invalids landed from the Himalaya, the question might, perhaps, have obtained for the next draught of invalids that shall arrive a reception more in harmony with the feelings of the country towards them.

Her majesty has broken through official reserve in order to testify in the most signal manner the warmth of the feeling which unites the Sovereign of this country to the men to whom our defense is entrusted. It would be highly gracious in her, and at any rate it is the bounden duty of her ministers, so to notice the recent scenes at Portsmouth, as to challenge the world for the humane and careful reception of the next cargo of human misery which the blast of war may fling upon the coast of England.

FOREIGN EXTRACTS.

THE Czar ON STARVING THE WOUNDED.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of December 29, contains a vindication of the Russian soldiers from the charge of cruelty to the wounded French and English, which thus concludes:

"These facts, if they did take place, ought for the rest to be attributed to the exasperation produced in our troops by the want of the allied armies. Let us not forget that the Russian soldier is defending his own soil, his hearth audaciously invaded by foreigners, allied to the enemies of Christianity, by adversaries who respect neither churches, nor convents, nor holy bells, and that these crimes are in his eyes so many deeds of sacrilege that kindle his vengeance. We must not conceal from ourselves the fact that the sacking of the Church of Chersonesus, that ancient temple, witnessed by our soldiers from the bastions of Sebastopol has justly exasperated them. The resistance of a people attacked in objects most sacred to its heart, in its religion as well as its homes, often assumes a fierce nature by acquiring religious feelings. The conduct of our enemies? Why not say, for instance, that during the battle of the twenty-fourth (Nov. 5) the Anglo-French sharpshooters, unable to resist the collision of our bayonets, threw themselves on the ground under the pretence of being wounded, but as they were gallant had had passed, stood up again for the purpose of firing bullets at the legs. Acts of this sort, such as we have just instanced, would amply explain the exasperation of the Russian soldier."

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Communications.

For the Washington Sentinel.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I have seen an editorial article in your paper of the 19th instant, under the heading of "The Ohio Democracy," relative to the resolutions adopted by the Democratic State Convention which assembled at Columbus, Ohio, on the 8th January instant, in which, in my opinion, you place an erroneous construction on one of the resolutions adopted by that convention, and which, in as much as these resolutions have been "the subject of free and general comment," I feel bound to state.

In the article referred to, after having commented on various of the resolutions embraced in the Platform, and, with one exception, endorsed and applauded the sentiments and principles contained therein, you go on to say:

"The declaration contained in these resolutions that they will use 'all power clearly given by the terms of the national compact to prevent the increase of slavery and finally to eradicate it,' is a declaration to the effect that there is in the national compact a clear grant of power for the purpose—and that grant the Democracy of Ohio desire to exercise."

Now, against such an opinion and announcement as this, we enter our solemn protest, a protest founded on the resolutions of the convention themselves.

There are two resolutions upon the subject of slavery, and so intimately connected with each other that they should be taken together, in order to a correct understanding of the sentiments contained in them. They are as follows:

"Resolved, That the people of Ohio, now, as they have always done, look upon slavery as an evil, and unfavorable to the development of the spirit and practical benefits of free institutions; and that entertaining these sentiments, they will at all times feel it to be their duty to use all power clearly given by the terms of the national compact, to prevent its increase, to mitigate, and finally to eradicate the evil; but be it further

"Resolved, That the Democracy of Ohio do at the same time fully recognize the doctrine held by the fathers of the Republic, and still maintained by the Democratic party in all the States, that to each State belongs the right to adopt and modify its own municipal laws, to regulate its own internal affairs, to hold and maintain an equal and independent sovereignty with each and every State, and that upon these rights the National Legislature can neither legislate nor encroach."

Now, I beg leave to say to you, that the interpretation you put on the first of the above resolutions, that "the declaration contained in these resolutions that they will use all power clearly given by the terms of the national compact, to prevent its increase, to mitigate, and finally to eradicate the evil, is equivalent to a declaration that there is in the national compact a clear grant of power for the purpose—and that such a grant the Democracy of Ohio desire to exercise," is entirely unauthorized by either the language or spirit of the resolutions, and directly contrary to the well settled construction and understanding of the same in Ohio.

The first resolution contains simply the declaration of a sentiment entertained by the "People of Ohio," in common with the people of the Northern States, that they "look upon slavery as an evil," and that "entertaining these sentiments, they will, at all times, feel it to be their duty to use all power clearly given by the terms of the national compact, to prevent its increase, &c." Upon the subject of slavery, in the abstract, this is, undoubtedly, the "sentiment" of the "people of Ohio." But this language cannot, certainly, be "equivalent to a declaration that there is in the national compact a clear grant of power for the purpose—and that such a grant the Democracy of Ohio desire to exercise." The interpretation uniformly given to this resolution has been that, although the people of Ohio "look upon slavery as an evil," yet they will not use, or seek to use, any doubtful power over the subject; that they will refrain from any attempt to exercise such power, unless it be clearly given. It is, as to whether or not such a "clearly given" no opinion is expressed, nor is any such opinion fairly deducible from the language contained in the resolution. The resolution next following, and which, indeed, forms a part of the preceding one, does go on to define, distinctly, the position of the "Democracy of Ohio," as to the question of power; and in it are contained the emphatic declarations of exclusive State authority over the subject of slavery; the sovereignty of each and every State, its right to regulate its own internal affairs, to adopt and modify its own municipal laws, and that "upon these rights the National Legislature can neither legislate nor encroach."

These resolutions are not, as you would seem to suppose, recent origin in Ohio. They belong to a series which were adopted in 1848, and have been continued, by each successive convention, up till, and including the last one, without question. At the last convention, however, several new resolutions were adopted, more particularly defining the position of the Democracy of Ohio with reference to the present exigencies, as follows:

"Resolved, That the Democracy of Ohio are attached to the Union of the States, and to the Constitution, in which are expressed the principles which the Union has originally established, and by a strict adherence to which alone that Union can be preserved; and they denounce, as dangerous to the peace and liberties of the country, all attempts to organize political parties with reference to geographical or sectional distinctions."

"Resolved, That this convention, in behalf of the Democracy of Ohio, hereby affirm the platform of resolutions adopted at the National Democratic Convention which assembled at Baltimore in June, 1852, as a clear and distinct declaration of our political principles."

"Resolved, That we demand from the Democratic majority in Congress.

1st. A revision of the tariff of 1846 with the double purpose of reducing the amount of revenue, and excluding the principle of bounty to special interests."

"2d. Co-operation, by efficient measures, in the restoration to the States of the constitutional currency of gold and silver."

"3d. Hostility to a general system of Internal Improvement; in accordance with the principles expressed in the recent vote message of the Executive, that just and impartial application within the limits contemplated by the Constitution for Lake and River Improvements, as well as for the harbors of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts."

"4th. Uncompromising hostility to any attempt of the European powers to establish colonies on, or to extend their political systems over, any part of this continent or the islands adjacent thereto."

"5th. The acquisition and annexation to our Union of Cuba and the Sandwich Islands, at the earliest moment consistent with our national honor, and the securing of a passage across the Isthmus for our commerce in peace and our armies in war."

"Resolved, In the language of the Continental Congress, adopted thirty days after the Declaration of Independence, that 'it is a wise policy to extend the protection of our laws to all who shall settle among us, of whatever nation or religion they may be, and to admit them to a participation of the benefits of civil and religious freedom'—that we therefore proclaim

to wit: 'Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religion, or political,' and we hereby reiterate the declaration of successive Democratic National Conventions, from 1837 to 1852, namely: 'That

the liberal principles embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence and sanctioned by the Constitution, which make ours the land of liberty and the asylum of the oppressed of every nation, have ever been cardinal principles in the Democratic faith; and every attempt to abridge the privilege of becoming citizens and the owners of the soil among us, ought to be resisted with the same spirit which swept the alien and sedition laws from our statute books."

"Resolved, That we recognize in the Democratic administrations, State and National, faithful, consistent, and patriotic auxiliaries in the above and kindred measures of Democratic policy, and therefore worthy of the confidence and support of every democrat."

I submit, then, Messrs. Editors, that the construction you put on the resolution referred to is not warranted by the resolution itself, and is totally irreconcilable with the spirit of the remaining resolutions. Take them all in all, they are distinct with plain and simple doctrine; they declare attachment to "the Union of the States and to the Constitution, in which are expressed the principles and the compromises upon the faith of which the Union was originally established, and by a strict adherence to which alone that Union can be preserved."

"We denounce, as dangerous to the peace and liberties of the country all attempts to organize political parties with reference to geographical or sectional distinctions;" they endorse the platform adopted at the National Democratic Convention assembled at Baltimore in 1852, as a clear and distinct declaration of our political principles; and, therefore, thus standing upon the "Constitution of the Union and all its compromises," occupy a position eminently national and conservative, even as a general principle, unless you are prepared to say that the question of slavery, in the abstract, whether it be an "evil" or a "blessing," should be made a test of Democratic orthodoxy. That no such test is denied by you, I feel well assured; and equally so that, if it were attempted to be made, it would be unsatisfactorily repudiated by the Democracy of Ohio.

It is not denied that our people are anti-slavery in sentiment—that they entertain views similar to those entertained by General Cass and other distinguished Democratic statesmen of the north who have long and manfully battled for the constitutional rights of our Southern brethren. But, when it is remembered that our State has been the theatre of the most shameful and unprincipled conditions of Whigs and Abolitionists, with all other factions and isms of every grade and color, including the second order of "Know-nothings," all mixed into one conglomerated "Fusion," for the purpose of defeating the Democracy, and have temporarily succeeded in obtaining the ascendancy, it does seem to me that the men and the party who cut their names from defeat, and loudly announce in the strong and emphatic language already quoted, their firm adherence to sound constitutional doctrines—denouncing the attempt of these fanatical agitators to organize "political parties upon geographical or sectional distinctions as dangerous to the peace and liberties of the country," thus evincing the true Democratic principle, in the hour of adversity—may well challenge the admiration of their political brethren in every section of the Union.

AN OHIO DEMOCRAT.

The Joint Commission on English and American Claims.

This commission, which has been in session in London since June last, was to have concluded its business on the 15th inst. in General Thomas, the solicitor for U. S. claimants, returned home in the Pacific. By the provisions of the convention, all claims against either government, arising out of any transaction since the treaty of Ghent up to the 15th of June last, might be submitted for the decision of the commission, and whether submitted or not, are henceforth barred. From a London letter in the New York Post, we notice that awards were made in a number of cases in favor of American citizens against the British government; and that in the case of several fishing vessels the United States construction of the treaty of 1818 was sustained on an appeal to the empire. Claims for Texas and Florida lands were rejected. The sum of \$18,000 was allowed J. W. Neal and others, for their slaves, liberated on board the brig Enterprise, which put into Bermuda owing to stress of weather.

The sum of \$16,000 was also awarded for slaves liberated on being forced into the Bahamas. The owners of the brig Croft, which also put into the Bahamas with slaves on board in a state of mutiny, were awarded \$12,136, in consequence of their liberation. From a London letter the Messrs. Lawrents was disallowed. It was for damages for the seizure by General Scott and confiscation of a debt alleged to be due them to the Mexican government, as the purchase money of real estate in the city of Mexico, of which they were afterwards dispossessed by judgment of the Mexican courts. The Post's correspondent says:

"The British claims were vastly more numerous, and although many of them have been righted, yet, so far as the decisions have transpired, the amount of the awards to each government appears to be nearly equal. The British government entirely perverted the commission from its original design, and presented every conceivable claim, and pressed all with equal pertinacity. It is the English rule in controversies with foreign governments to claim more than they believe to be due."—*Baltimore Sun*.

Arctic Calamity.

The grand jury made a presentation on Saturday morning, in the U. S. Court, at New York, in the case of the *Arctic*, setting forth the facts relative to the loss of that vessel, and presenting the following recommendations:

First. That every steamship or sailing vessel should have a boat for every fifty passengers, of a size thirty feet in length, and eight feet beam, with sails attached, which a boat should be numbered. That they should be respectively called: first, the captain's boat; second, the chief mate's boat; third, the second mate's boat; fourth, the third mate's boat; fifth, the fourth mate's boat; sixth, the chief engineer's boat; seventh, the purser's boat; eighth, the carpenter's boat; and so on in proportion to the number of officers on board of steamships or sailing vessels.

And, in order to prevent confusion, the sailors and those employed on board such vessels, should be severally assigned to the different boats, with the number of the boat in some conspicuous place on their person. That every person purchasing a passage should be furnished with a ticket, on which the number of the boat to which he should be appointed is designated.

Second. That the Engineer's department should be under the immediate command of the captain of the ship.

Third. That inasmuch as from the evidence before us, it was proved conclusively that very serious embarrassments exist in the minds of the officers of ships in meeting with vessels at sea, harbors, as to the direction to be pursued by them, some more definite instructions to that point should be furnished by authority.

It was stated that by the law of Great Britain, in a case similar to the above it would have been the duty of those in command of the *Arctic* to have ported the helm. The witnesses disagreed as to the propriety of the course to be pursued in this instance, and it was deemed that neither those having charge of the *Vesta*, or *Arctic*, were guided by any established rule of conduct suitable to the emergency then presented.

Large Verdict.—The jury at the Supreme Court, at Boston, in the case of *Mis. Rensselaer*, against the city, for damages received by falling through a coal hole on the sidewalk, gave a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, and fixed the damages at \$4,000.

THE SECOND EXHIBITION OF THE METROPOLITAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

For the Promotion and Encouragement of Manufactures, Commerce, and the Mechanic and Useful Arts.

WILL be opened at the City of Washington, on Thursday, the 8th day of February, 1854, in the new and splendid Hall of the Smithsonian Institution, which is one of the most magnificent rooms in all the United States.

To this Exhibition the Manufacturers, Mechanics, Artists, Inventors, and all others desiring to display the results of their labor, skill, ingenuity, and taste, from all portions of the Union, are cordially invited to contribute.

The Machinery Department will be under the charge of a special Superintendent. Steam power, fixtures, labor, &c., will be given free of expense.

All intending to exhibit are requested to give notice as early as possible. Goods should be accompanied with a proper invoice.

The committee therefore feel that in inviting contributions from all portions of the